



11 October 2006



## north Korean Claimed Nuclear Test

1. As you know, there has been wide reporting and speculation about what north Korea claims was a nuclear test last Monday morning. Due to the nature of the event and our proximity to the location of the reported test, there may be continued uneasiness within the command, particularly with family members. The actual nature and extent of the activity is being studied, with many governments and world leaders commenting on the events. I'm sure over the next several days amplifying information will be reported. In the meantime, I want to make it clear to all that we are executing daily operations and maintaining our readiness at appropriate levels. At this time, there is no reason to change this approach.

2. However to help alleviate potential anxiety and any misunderstanding, please take time to read and take aboard the following points. Also, I'd like you to share these facts with your subordinates and family members:

- The "seismic event" observed last Monday may or may not have been a nuclear test. Scientists and analysts are studying the available data in an attempt to arrive at a definitive conclusion.
- While this test is a significant development, there is no cause for alarm within the command. USFK continuously evaluates our area of operations for threats to the safety and security of our force, our Service Members and our families. Our Alliance, Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea are prepared to protect our forces and the Republic of Korea should that ever be necessary.
- This test does not alter our ability to effectively deter. Be assured that the Alliance has the forces necessary to deter aggression and, should deterrence fail, decisively defeat any north Korean attack against the Republic of Korea.
- U.S. forces have been well trained to confront nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

3. The bottom line is that this seismic event in and of itself will not cause us to change the way we do business. Our Alliance is strong and our commitment to peace, stability and security on the Korean Peninsula is resolute. I encourage all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians, and Family Members to talk with your leadership and others in the command in order to eliminate any rumors or any misunderstanding that may exist regarding this event. I thank everyone for their service and commitment to our great Alliance which has produced peace and stability over many decades. Through strength, unwavering commitment and solidarity, we will continue to accomplish this in the future.

B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commander

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